DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 478 282 UD 035 810

AUTHOR	Schmidley, Dianne
TITLE	The Foreign-Born Population in the United States: March 2002. Population Characteristics. Current Population Reports.
INSTITUTION	Bureau of the Census (DOC), Washington, DC. Economics and Statistics Administration.
REPORT NO	P20-539
PUB DATE	2003-02-00
NOTE	9p.; For the 2000 Current Population Report on the foreign-born population, see ED 469 531.
AVAILABLE FROM	U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC 20233. Tel: 301-763-4636; e-mail: pop@census.gov. For full text: http://www.census.gov/ population/www/socdemo/foreign.html.
PUB TYPE	Numerical/Quantitative Data (110) -- Reports - Research (143)
EDRS PRICE	EDRS Price MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Citizenship; Educational Attainment; Elementary Secondary Education; Employment Level; Family Status; *Foreign Countries; Geographic Distribution; Graduation; *Immigrants; *Population Trends; Poverty; Urban Areas ; Wages
IDENTIFIERS	Census 2000; Central America; Current Population Survey; *Foreign Born; Mexico

ABSTRACT

This report describes the foreign-born population of the United States in 2002, using data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. Overall, more than one-third of the foreign-born population is from Mexico or another Central American country. The foreign-born are more likely to live in the west, while natives are more likely to live in the south. The foreign-born are more likely than the native population to live in central cities of metropolitan areas. They are more likely than natives to be age 18-64 years. More than one in three foreign-born are naturalized citizens. The foreign-born live in family households that are larger than those of natives. Two out of three of the foreign-born have graduated from high school. Educational attainment varies by region of birth among the foreign-born. The foreign-born are more likely than natives to be unemployed. They earn less and are more likely to live in poverty than natives. (SM)

Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made
from the original document.

ED 478 282

The Foreign-Born Population in the United States: March 2002

Population Characteristics

Issued February 2003

P20-539

Current Population Reports

By
Dianne Schmudley

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
✓ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

This report describes the foreign-born population in the United States in 2002. It provides a profile of demographic and socioeconomic characteristics, such as region of birth, geographic distribution in the United States, age, educational attainment, earnings, and poverty status. These characteristics are compared with those of the native population, and because the foreign born are a heterogeneous group, variability within the foreign-born population is also discussed. The findings are based on data collected by the Census Bureau in the Current Population Survey (CPS).[1]

Simply put, the foreign born are those who were not U.S. citizens at birth. Natives are those who were born in the United States or a U.S. Island Area such as Puerto Rico or born abroad of at least one parent who was a U.S. citizen.

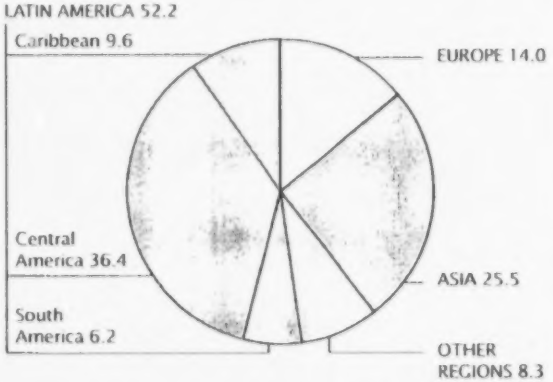
POPULATION SIZE AND COMPOSITION

More than one-third of the foreign-born population is from Mexico or another Central American country.

In March 2002, the civilian noninstitutionalized population in the United States included 32.5 million foreign born, representing 11.5 percent of the U.S. population.[2]

[1] The estimates in this report are based on responses from a sample of the population. As with all surveys, estimates may vary from the actual values because of sampling variation or other factors. All comparisons made in this report have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted. For information about CPS estimates of the foreign-born population and how they differ from census numbers, see *Profile of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States:2000* (P23-206), Appendix B, "Source and Accuracy of the Estimates" and Appendix C, "Comparison of Population Universes." See also, "Source of the Data" at the end of this report.

Figure 1.
Foreign Born by Region of Birth: 2002
(In percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2002.

[2] The data in this report are from the Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey. The population represented (the population universe) is the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States. Members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post are included if there is at least one civilian adult living in the household.

Demographic Programs

UD 035 810

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

USCENSUSBUREAU

Helping You Make Informed Decisions

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

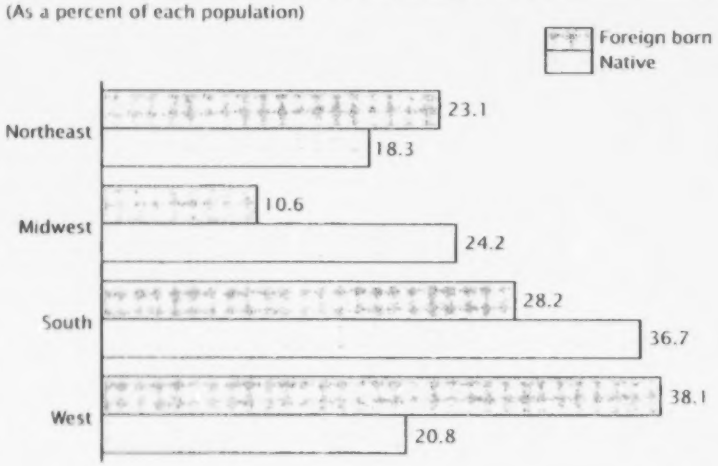
Among the foreign born, 52.2 percent were born in Latin America, 25.5 percent were born in Asia, 14.0 percent were born in Europe, and the remaining 8.3 percent were born in other regions of the world.[1] The foreign-born population from Central America (including Mexico) accounted for more than two-thirds of the foreign born from Latin America and more than one-third of the total foreign born (see Figure 1).

The foreign born are more likely to live in the West, while natives are more likely to live in the South.

In 2002, 10.6 percent of the foreign-born population lived in the Midwest, 23.1 percent in the Northeast, 28.2 percent in the South, and 38.1 percent in the West. In contrast, among the native population, 24.2 lived in the Midwest, 18.3 in the Northeast, 36.7 in the South, and 20.8 percent in the West (see Figure 2).

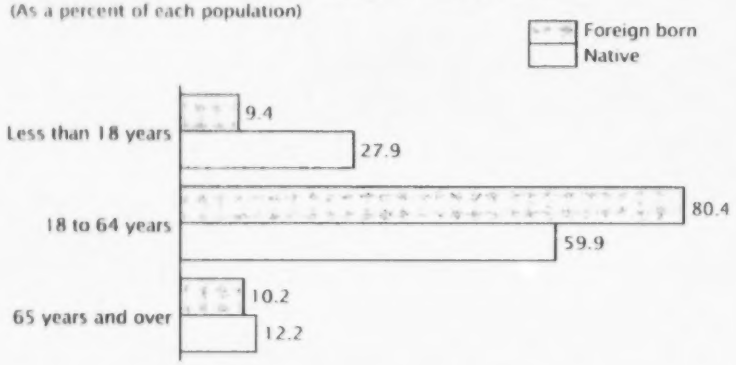
The foreign born from both Latin America (40.6 percent) and Asia (44.6 percent) were more likely to live in the West than in any other region of the United States. The foreign born from Central America, who represent more than two-thirds of the foreign born from Latin America, were concentrated in the West (54.7 percent) and the South (30.1 percent). In comparison, the Latin American foreign born from the Caribbean and from South America were concentrated in the Northeast (50.5 percent and 45.5 percent, respectively) and the South (44.4 percent and 36.0 percent, respectively).[4]

Figure 2.
Population by Nativity and Region of Residence: 2002
(As a percent of each population)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2002.

Figure 3.
Population by Nativity and Age Group: 2002
(As a percent of each population)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2002.

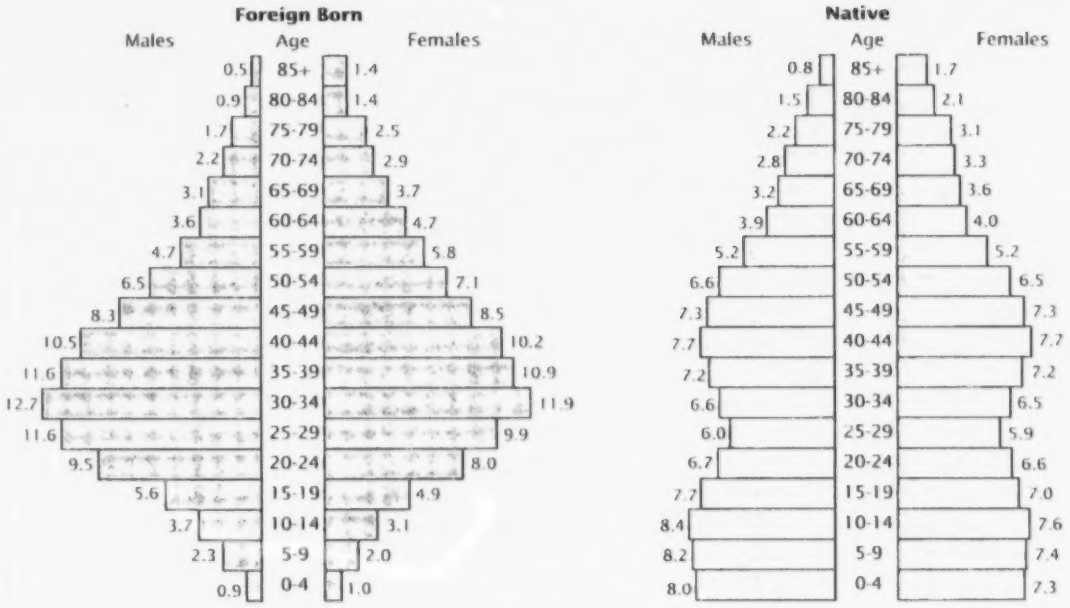
The foreign born are more likely than the native population to live in central cities of metropolitan areas.

Over 40 percent of the foreign born lived in a central city in a metropolitan area (43.3 percent), compared with slightly more than

[1] Latin America includes Central America (Mexico), the Caribbean, and South America. For similar comparisons between Hispanic and non-Hispanic White populations in the United States, see de la Cruz, Patricia and Roberto Ramirez, 2003, *The Hispanic Population in the United States: March 2002*, Current Population Reports, P20-545, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.

[4] The percentages of foreign born from the Caribbean living in the Northeast and the South are not statistically different from each other or from the percent of South American foreign born living in the Northeast.

Figure 4.
Population by Nativity, Age, and Sex: 2002
(In percent)[1]



[1]Each bar represents the percent of the foreign-born (native) population who were within the specified age group and of the specified sex.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2002.

one-quarter of the native population (27.0 percent). The proportions of the foreign-born and native populations living outside central cities but within a metropolitan area were statistically different, but the difference was small (51.1 percent and 52.6 percent, respectively). The percentage of the foreign born living in nonmetropolitan areas (5.7 percent) was much smaller than the percentage of natives (20.4 percent).

The foreign born are more likely than natives to be 18 to 64 years of age.

In 2002, 80.4 percent of the foreign born were 18 to 64 years of age, whereas 59.9 percent of the natives were in this age group (see Figure 3). More specifically, whereas 44.7 percent of the foreign born were ages 25 to 44, 27.4 percent of the native population were in this age group. Among the foreign born, 24.6 percent were 45 to 64 years old, compared with 23.0 percent of natives (see Figure 4).

The foreign-born proportion aged 65 and over (10.2 percent) was statistically different from that of the natives (12.2 percent), but the difference was very small. Relatively few foreign born were less than 18 years of age (9.4 percent), compared with the native population (27.9 percent). The small proportion of foreign born in the youngest age group occurred because most of the children of foreign-born parents are natives.

More than one of three foreign born are naturalized citizens.

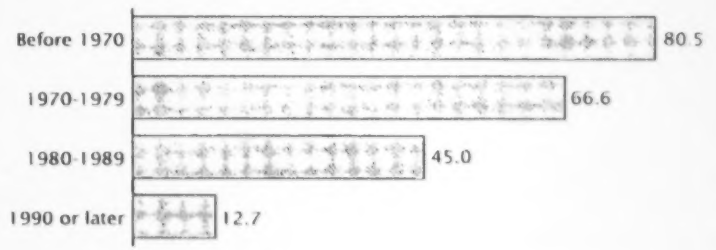
Among the foreign born in 2002, 48.6 percent entered the United States since 1990, another 24.5 percent came in the 1980s, 14.2 percent entered in the 1970s, and the remaining 12.7 percent arrived before 1970. Among those who arrived before 1970, 80.5 percent had obtained citizenship by 2002. Of those who entered from 1970 to 1979, 66.6 percent had obtained citizenship by 2002, compared with 45.0 percent of those who entered from 1980 to

1989, and 12.7 percent of those who entered in 1990 or later (see Figure 5).[5]

The foreign born live in family households that are larger than those of natives.

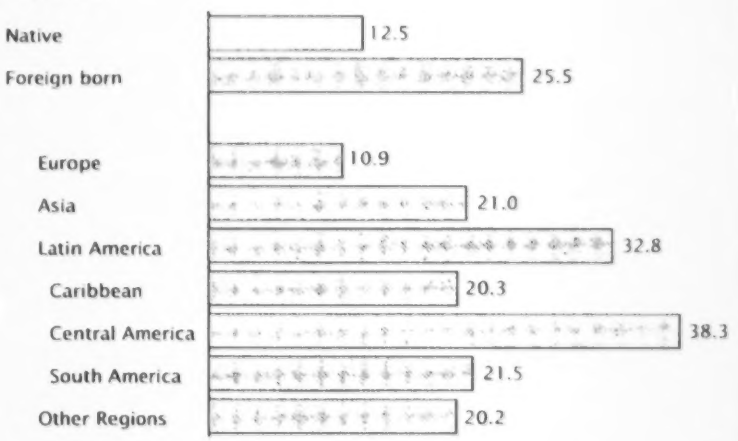
In 2002, 25.5 percent of the family households with a foreign-born householder included five or more people.[6] In contrast, only 12.5 percent of the family households with a native householder were this large. Among foreign-born family households, the proportion with five or more people varied from 38.3 percent when the householder was from Central America to 10.9 percent when the householder was from Europe (see Figure 6).[7]

Figure 5.
U.S. Citizenship of the Foreign-Born Population by Year of Entry: 2002
(In percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2002.

Figure 6.
Family Households With Five or More People by Nativity and World Region of Birth: 2002
(In percent)[1]



[1]Each bar represents the percent of family households, whose householder was born in the specified area, that consisted of five or more people.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2002.

Among the population 15 years and over, the foreign born were more likely to be currently married than natives (60.3 percent compared with 52.5 percent).[8] Among the foreign born, a larger proportion of the naturalized citizens were married (65.8 percent), compared with noncitizens (56.8 percent).[9]

[5] Generally, at least 5 years of residence is required for U.S. citizenship, so rates for the more recently arrived foreign born will always be lower. Measures of citizenship status based on CPS data differ from naturalization rates. Naturalization rates represent the percent of legal immigrants eligible for U.S. citizenship who have become U.S. citizens. Although most foreign born living in the United States are legal immigrants, and thus eligible for naturalization, at any given time several million foreign born with nonimmigrant status also live in the United States (such as students, diplomats, and undocumented people) and many of them are included in the CPS data. Because of this, CPS citizenship proportions most likely understate comparable INS naturalization rates for all length of residence categories. For more information, see *Profile of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States: 2000* (P23-206), Section 7, "Citizenship Status."

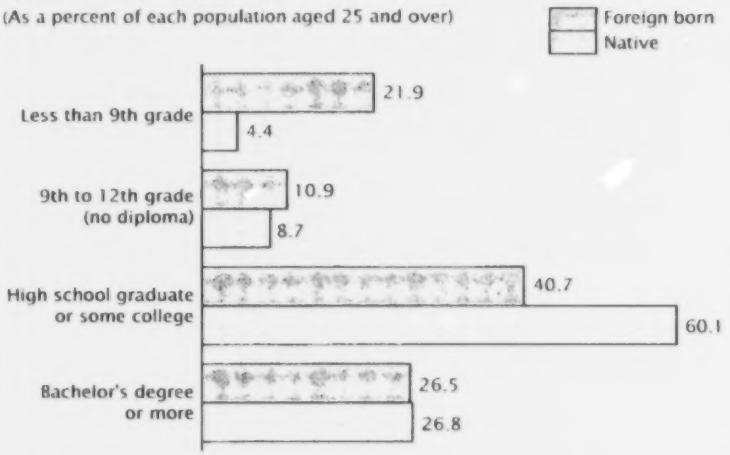
[6] Family households consist of two or more people, at least one of whom is related to the householder (the person who owns or rents the housing unit). Foreign-born households have a foreign-born householder.

[7] The percentage with five or more members did not differ statistically among family households with a foreign-born householder from Asia (21.0 percent), the Caribbean (20.3 percent), South America (21.5 percent), or Other Regions (20.2 percent). The percentage of total family households with a foreign-born householder and five or more members (25.5 percent) was not statistically different from the percentage of households with a foreign born householder from either South America (21.5 percent) or Other Regions (20.0 percent). There was no difference for family households with foreign-born householders from Europe (10.9 percent) and households with Native householders (12.5 percent).

[8] Includes cases in which the spouse is absent but excludes those who are separated.

[9] Marital status is calculated for those aged 15 and over.

Figure 7.
Population by Nativity and Educational Attainment: 2002
(As a percent of each population aged 25 and over)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2002.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Two out of three of the foreign born have graduated from high school.

The foreign born aged 25 and over were less likely to have graduated from high school than natives the same age (67.2 percent and 86.9 percent, respectively). Foreign-born naturalized citizens were more likely to have graduated from high school than noncitizens (77.4 percent and 59.6 percent, respectively). More than one-fifth of the foreign born had less than a ninth-grade education (21.9 percent), compared with about one-twentieth of the native population (4.4 percent). The percentage of the foreign born with a bachelor's degree or more education (26.5 percent) was not statistically different from that of the native population (26.8 percent, see Figure 7).

Educational attainment among the foreign born varies by region of birth.

The highest percentages of high school graduates among the foreign born were from Asia, Europe, and Other Regions (86.8 percent, 84.0 percent, and 82.0 percent, respectively).[10] In sharp contrast, the percentage of high school graduates from Latin America was much lower (49.1 percent).[11] Among the foreign born from Latin America, those from South America were the most likely to have graduated from high school (80.9 percent), and those from Central America were the least likely (37.3 percent), as shown in Figure 8. The proportion who had attained a bachelor's degree ranged from 48.9 percent for those from Asia to 6.0 percent for those from Central America.[12]

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

The foreign born are more likely than natives to be unemployed.

In March 2002, 6.9 percent of the foreign born in the civilian labor force were unemployed, compared with 6.1 percent of natives.[13] Unemployment rates were not dissimilar between foreign-born men (6.8 percent) and native men (6.7 percent), but they differed between foreign-born women (7.0 percent) and native women (5.4 percent).[14]

Foreign-born workers were more likely than native workers to be in service occupations (21.1 percent and 13.1 percent, respectively). Conversely, 23.4 percent of the foreign born were in managerial or professional specialty occupations, compared with 32.7 percent of natives. Among the foreign born, the percentage of workers in managerial or professional specialty occupations ranged from a low of 6.5 percent for Central America to highs of 40.4 percent for Asia,

[10] Other Regions includes Canada, Australia, and countries in Africa.

[11] The proportion of high school graduates among the foreign born from Europe (84.0 percent) was not statistically different from that for the foreign born from South America (80.8 percent) or from Other Regions (82.0 percent). The proportion among the foreign born from Asia (86.8 percent) was not statistically different from that for Natives (86.9 percent).

[12] The proportion of the foreign born from Europe who had acquired a bachelor's degree or more education (34.7 percent) was not statistically different from that of the foreign born from Other Regions (33.5 percent).

[13] Labor force data shown in this report reflect characteristics of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and over for March 2002. The official unemployment rates released by the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for March 2002 do not agree with the data shown in this report, largely owing to seasonal adjustment factors. For more information about the methodological practices of the BLS, see *Profile of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States: 2000* (P23-206), Section 15. Labor Force Participation, footnote 1.

[14] The unemployment rates were not statistically different between: native men and foreign-born women or foreign-born men and foreign-born women.

37.2 percent for Europe, and 32.6 percent for Other Regions.[15]

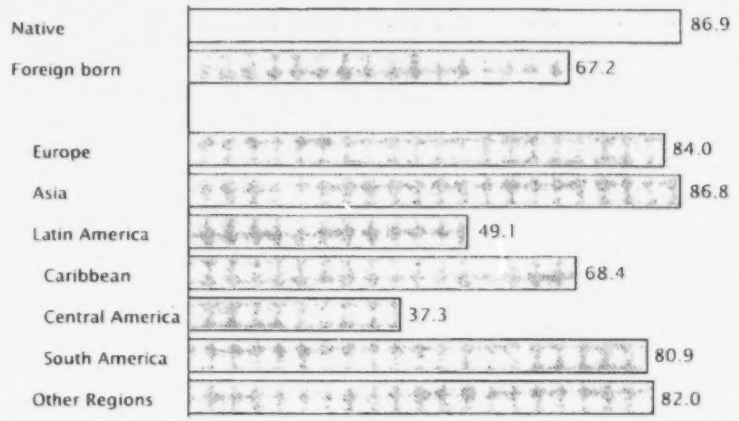
The foreign born earn less than natives.

The March 2002 CPS shows that 31.1 percent of foreign-born full-time, year-round workers and 17.4 percent of native workers earned less than $20,000 in 2001.[16] Among foreign-born workers, the proportions earning less than $20,000 ranged from 47.4 percent of those from Central America to 14.9 percent of those from Europe and 17.9 percent from Asia (not statistically different). A higher proportion of native workers (28.8 percent) than of foreign-born workers (21.3 percent) earned $50,000 or more.[17]

The foreign born are more likely to live in poverty than natives.

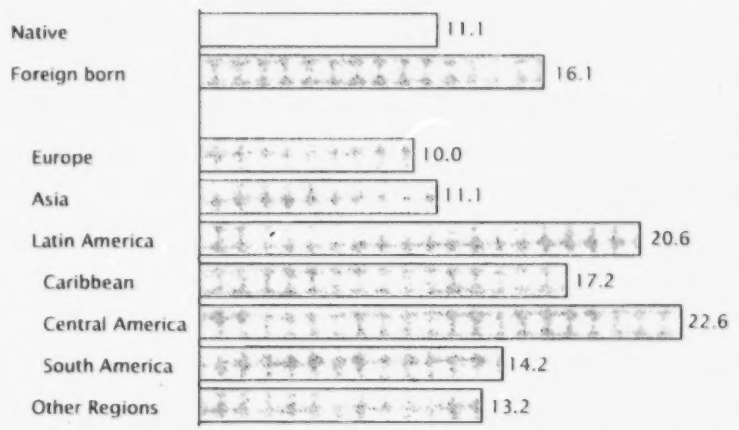
In 2001, 16.1 percent of the foreign born were living below the poverty level, compared with 11.1 percent of natives.[18] Foreign-born noncitizens were twice as likely to be poor (19.7 percent) as

Figure 8.
Population With High School Education or More by Nativity and World Region of Birth: 2002
(In percent)[1]



[1]Each bar represents the percent of individuals aged 25 and over, who were born in the specified area, who have at least a high school education.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2002.

Figure 9.
People Living Below the Poverty Level by Nativity and World Region of Birth: 2002
(In percent)[1]



[1]Each bar represents the percent of individuals, who were born in the specified area, who were living in poverty.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2002.

[15] No statistical difference existed between the percentages for Asia and Europe or between Asia and Other Regions. No statistical difference existed between the percentages for the Caribbean (19.3 percent) and South America (20.8 percent).

[16] Data on earnings and poverty refer to the calendar year before the survey.

[17] Among the foreign born, the proportion earning $50,000 or more ranged from 36.3 percent and 35.8 percent for Asia and Europe respectively (not statistically different), to 6.6 percent for workers from Central America.

[18] Poverty status is based on a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition (see Dalaker, Joseph, 2002. *Poverty in the United States 2001*, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, P60-219).

foreign-born naturalized citizens (9.9 percent) whose poverty rate was similar to that of the native population (11.1 percent). Among the foreign born, those from Latin America had the highest poverty rate (20.6 percent) and those from Europe and Asia the lowest (10.0 percent and 11.1 percent, respectively, and not statistically different from each other or the rate for natives). Among the foreign born from Latin America, the poverty rate was lower for those from South America (14.2 percent) and the Caribbean (17.2 percent) compared with Central America (22.6 percent). (See Figure 9).[19]

SOURCE OF THE DATA

The population represented (the population universe) in the Annual Demographic Supplement to the March 2002 Current Population Survey is the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States. Members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post are included if there is at least one civilian adult living in the household. The institutionalized population, which is excluded from the population universe, is composed primarily of the population in correctional institutions and nursing homes (91 percent of the 4.1 million institutionalized population in Census 2000). In Census 2000, approximately 373,863 foreign born were living in group quarters housing which includes the institutionalized population. Additional information about the CPS, including the population covered in the survey can be found in (1) *Money Income in the United States: 2001* (P60-218), "Appendix B. Sample Expansion and Introduction of Census 2000-Based Population Controls" at *www.census.gov*; and, (2) *Current Population Survey, Design and Methodology* (TP63RV) at: *www.bls.census.gov/cps*.

ACCURACY OF THE ESTIMATES

Statistics from surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level. This means the 90-percent confidence interval for the difference between the estimates being compared does not include zero. Nonsampling errors in surveys may be attributed to a variety of sources, such as how the survey was designed, how respondents interpret questions, how able and willing respondents are to provide correct answers, and how accurately the answers are coded and classified. The Census Bureau employs quality control procedures throughout the production process including the overall design of surveys, the wording of questions, review of the work of interviewers and coders, and statistical review of reports to minimize these errors.

The Current Population Survey weighting procedure uses ratio estimation whereby sample estimates are adjusted to independent estimates of the national population by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to undercoverage, but biases may still be present when people who are missed by the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. How this weighting procedure affects other variables in the survey is not precisely known. All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources.

For further information on statistical standards and the computation and use of standard errors, go to *http://www.bls.census.gov/cps/ads/2002/S&A_02.pdf* or contact Jeffrey Stratton of the Census Bureau Demographic Statistical Methods Division on the Internet at dsmd.source.and.accuracy@census.gov.

MORE INFORMATION

Annual packages of 60 detailed data tables showing selected characteristics of the foreign-born population by nativity, citizenship status, year of entry into the United States, and region of birth are available on the Census Bureau's Web site *www.census.gov* or at the phone number provided below. If using the Web site, click on the "F" then select "Foreign-Born Population Data." Locate tables by year. For example, under March 2002, choose "Annual Data Tables." Supplemental packages containing over 400 tables based on March CPS data are available for 1997 and 2000.

CPS tables can be downloaded as PDF or spreadsheet format or purchased as a paper product listing (PPL). To receive a paper version of an annual table package, send your request for "Profile of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States: March (specify year and product number)," along with a check or money order in the amount of $38.80 for each package. Make the check payable to "Commerce-Census-88-00-9010," U.S. Department of Commerce,

[19] Owing to very small sample size, the poverty rate for South America (14.2 percent) was not statistically different from any of the other areas except Central America (17.2 percent) and Europe (10.0 percent). The poverty rate for Other Regions (13.2 percent) was not statistically different from the other areas with the exception of Latin America and Central America.

U.S. Census Bureau, P.O. Box 277943, Atlanta, GA 30384-7943.

CONTACT

Statistical Information Office:
pop@census.gov
301-763-2422

USER COMMENTS

The Census Bureau welcomes the comments and advice of data and report users. If you have any suggestions or comments, please write to:

Chief, Population Division
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233

or send e-mail to:
pop@census.gov

This report was partially funded by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

SUGGESTED CITATION

Schmidley, Dianne, 2003, The *Foreign-Born Population in the United States: March 2002*, Current Population Reports, P20-539, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, D.C.

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
Washington, DC 20233

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for Private Use $300

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
U.S. Census Bureau
Permit No. G-58

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI)
National Library of Education (NLE)
Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC)

NOTICE

Reproduction Basis

	This document is covered by a signed "Reproduction Release (Blanket)" form (on file within the ERIC system), encompassing all or classes of documents from its source organization and, therefore, does not require a "Specific Document" Release form.
X	This document is Federally-funded, or carries its own permission to reproduce, or is otherwise in the public domain and, therefore, may be reproduced by ERIC without a signed Reproduction Release form (either "Specific Document" or "Blanket").